

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2164

To amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for new fixed guideway capital projects, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for new fixed guideway capital projects, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Federal Streetcar Revi-  
5       talization Act of 2009”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Communities throughout the United States  
2       are exploring the reintroduction of streetcars.

3           (2) Existing streetcar systems provide con-  
4       vincing evidence that, for a modest cost, streetcars  
5       can provide transportation choice, attract economic  
6       development, link jobs and housing, and create dens-  
7       er, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods.

8           (3) Streetcars provide transportation circulation  
9       within urbanized areas to catalyze economic develop-  
10      ment and housing in urban centers.

11          (4) The new starts program under section 5309  
12      of title 49, United States Code, supported streetcar  
13      projects in the past, but the existing small starts  
14      program under section 5309(e) of such title has  
15      failed to continue this legacy.

16          (5) Appropriate assessment of the value pro-  
17      vided by streetcar systems must encompass a cal-  
18      culation of the number of automobile trips not  
19      taken, the decrease in passenger vehicle miles trav-  
20      eled, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions  
21      that result from the streetcar system.

22   **SEC. 3. STREETCAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS.**

23          (a) AMENDMENTS TO SMALL STARTS PROGRAM.—  
24      Section 5309(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
25      ed—

1 (1) in the subsection heading by striking  
2 “\$75,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”;

3 (2) in paragraph (1)(A)—

4 (A) by striking “\$75,000,000” and insert-  
5 ing “\$100,000,000”; and

6 (B) by striking “\$250,000,000” and in-  
7 serting “\$300,000,000”;

8 (3) in paragraph (1)(B)—

9 (A) in the subparagraph heading by strik-  
10 ing “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”;

11 (B) by striking “\$25,000,000” and insert-  
12 ing “\$50,000,000”; and

13 (C) by striking “until such date as the  
14 final regulation to be issued under paragraph  
15 (9) takes effect”;

16 (4) by striking paragraph (2)(B) and inserting  
17 the following:

18 “(B) justified based on a review of its ef-  
19 fect on local economic development, land use,  
20 travel patterns, and greenhouse gas reduction  
21 potential; and”;

22 (5) in paragraph (3) by adding at the end the  
23 following: “For purposes of this paragraph, the Sec-  
24 retary shall compare the proposed project to a no  
25 build analysis to consider project outcomes.”;

(6) in paragraph (4) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following:

“(A) determine the degree to which the project will have a positive effect on local economic development;

“(B) determine the reduction in per capita auto travel demand that will result from the completed project, including related development, travel pattern, and land use changes; and

“(C) determine the reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions that will result from the completed project, including related development, travel pattern, and land use changes.”;

(7) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) ADVANCEMENT OF PROJECT TO DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION.—A proposed project under this subsection may advance from planning and alternatives analysis to project development and construction only if the Secretary finds that the project meets the requirements of this subsection and there is a reasonable likelihood that the project will continue to meet such requirements.”; and

(8) by striking paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11).

1       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5309 of  
2 title 49, United States Code, is amended—

3           (1) in subsection (a)(2) by striking  
4       “\$75,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”;

5           (2) in the heading for subsection (d) by striking  
6       “\$75,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”; and

7           (3) in subsection (m)(2)(A)(i) by striking  
8       “\$75,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

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